

Amendments to the Claims:

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A ceramic tube for use in a vacuum circuit breaker, the ceramic tube being cylindrical in shape with a set length and a set internal diameter, with a cylindrical end face at each end of the cylinder shape, each cylindrical end face being structured to be secured in a vacuum-tight manner to a metal end cap to form a vacuum chamber, characterized in that the cylindrical end face is shaped in such a manner that, in the assembled state, it makes contact with the metal end cap at least as far as the internal diameter of the ceramic tube in order to prevent, in operation of the vacuum circuit breaker, a concentration of electrical field at the triple junction of metal end cap, ceramic tube and vacuum chamber, wherein the cylindrical end face on an inner side of the ceramic tube forms an angle of substantially 90°, but less than 90°, with an inner surface of the ceramic tube.

2-3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) A vacuum circuit breaker provided with the ceramic tube according to Claim 1.

5-9. (Canceled).